



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow limitation and breathing-related problems including chronic cough, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, severe bronchiectasis, and sputum production; and
- WHEREAS: COPD is a progressive disease that affects an estimated 30 million people nationwide, half of whom have not been adequately diagnosed. An estimated 70 percent of those affected are under the age of 65; and
- WHEREAS: The nationwide cost of COPD in 2010 was \$50 billion, including \$30 billion in health care services and \$20 billion in indirect costs; and
- WHEREAS: COPD affects 6.9 percent of Georgians. Nationwide, COPD remains the third most common cause of death and the second most common cause of disability; and
- WHEREAS: An estimated 16.4 million workdays are lost annually due to COPD; and
- WHEREAS: Risk factors for COPD include smoking, exposure to air pollution, secondhand smoke, environmental or occupational irritants, and genetic predisposition. Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a genetic condition, may predispose individuals to develop COPD earlier in life; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure for COPD. However, greater awareness, early detection, and proper health management may slow the progression of the disease and lead to an improved quality of life, lower health care costs, and self-sufficiency for those affected; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF